

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, claims 9-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of Axberg et al., U.S. Patent 6,009,466 ("**Axberg**"), and claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited portions of **Axberg** in view of the cited portions of Kitamura et al., U.S. Patent Pub. 2003/0088683 ("**Kitamura**").

By the present Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 9-13. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8.

In regard to claims 1-8, and as noted in the earlier Amendment filed by Applicants (filed January 8, 2007), **Axberg** does not teach or suggest the recited feature in both claims 1 and 8 of "a communications unit for transmitting said first connection information to said management computer." The Examiner has cited **Kitamura** in the latest Office Action as showing such missing feature. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's conclusion as to the disclosure in **Kitamura**, Applicants point out the **Kitamura** and the present application are commonly owned, and were commonly owned at the time the presently claimed invention was made. As such, **Kitamura** is not properly cited prior art under 35 USC § 103(c). For such reason, claims 1-8 are believed allowable.

Dependent claims 2-7 each recite limitations in addition to those of independent claim 1, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/618,433
Amdt. dated July 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2007

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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